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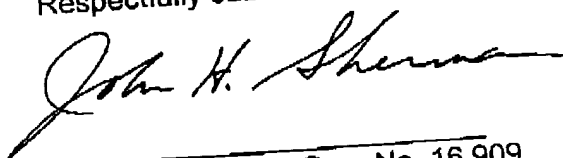
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Applicant respectfully requests that the indicated amendments be entered and favorably considered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons, Applicant respectfully requests a favorable consideration of all the claims as now presented, and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: January 17, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, line 19 to the bottom of the page, please delete the entire section headed "INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE", and substitute the following replacement section:

—INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

—The following applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and made part of this application.

- 1. U.S. application Serial No. 07/898,908 (Attorney Docket Nos. 92 P 447 & DN36767XZAA), by Koenck et al., filed June 12, 1992, now abandoned.
- 2. U.S. application Serial No. 08/071,555 (Attorney Docket Nos. 10168US04 & DN36767XZX), by Koenck et al., filed June 4, 1993, now U.S. Patent 5,331,136 issued July 19, 1994.
- 3. U.S. application Serial No. 08/107,470 (Attorney Docket Nos. 10126US03 & DN38000B), by Kinney et al., filed August 17, 1993, now abandoned.
- 4. U.S. application Serial No. 08/097,462 (Attorney Docket Nos. 10222US01 & DN38017), by West et al., filed July 26, 1993, now U.S. Patent 5,590,346 issued December 31, 1996.
- 5. U.S. application Serial No. 08/059,447 (Attorney Docket Nos. 10126US03 & DB37882XA), by R. Meier, filed May 7, 1993, now U.S. Patent 5,428,636 issued June 27, 1995.
- 6. U.S. application Serial No. 08/101,254 (Attorney Docket Nos. 10092US04 & DN37998C), by R. Mahany, filed August 3, 1993, now abandoned.

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Please amend claim 9 as follows to correct a typographical error:

—9. (Amended) In an RF communications network having a communication channel, an access point and a portable data collection terminal, wherein the portable data collection terminal having a transceiver which may be selectively powered up or down to conserve energy, a method used by the portable data collection terminal for gaining access to the communication network, comprising the steps:

- (a) powering up the transceiver;
- (b) sensing the communication channel for a first predetermined time;
- (c) if during the sensing of the communication channel the channel remained clear, transmitting to the access point; and
- (d) If during the sensing of the communication channel the channel did not remain clear, waiting for a second predetermined time, and branching to step (b).—

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